

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

Agreement and memorandum note signed at Washington February 8, 1900

Proclaimed by the President of the United States July 18, 1900

Entered into force July 18, 1900

Supplemented by agreement of March 2, 1909 ¹

Terminated August 7, 1910 ²

31 Stat. 1979; Treaty Series 182

AGREEMENT

The President of the United States of America and His Majesty the King of Italy, mutually desirous to improve the commercial relations between the two countries by a Special Agreement relative thereto, have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries for that purpose, namely:

The President of the United States of America, the Honorable John A. Kasson, Special Commissioner Plenipotentiary, etc. and

His Majesty the King of Italy, His Excellency the Baron S. Fava, Senator of the Kingdom, his Ambassador at Washington, etc.,

Who being duly empowered thereunto have agreed upon the following Articles.

ARTICLE I

It is agreed on the part of the United States, pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the third Section of the Tariff Act of the United States approved July 24, 1897,³ and in consideration of the concessions hereinafter made on the part of Italy in favor of the products and manufactures of the United States, that the existing duties imposed upon the following articles being the product of the soil or industry of Italy imported into the United States shall be suspended during the continuance in force of this Agreement, and in place thereof the duties to be assessed and collected thereon shall be as follows, namely:

¹ TS 523, *post*, p. 118.

² Pursuant to notice of termination given by the United States Aug. 7, 1909.

³ 30 Stat. 203.

On argols, or crude tartar, or wine lees, crude, five per centum ad valorem.

On brandies, or other spirits manufactured or distilled from grain or other materials, one dollar and seventy-five cents per proof gallon.

On still wines, and vermouth, in casks, thirty-five cents per gallon; in bottles or jugs, per case of one dozen bottles or jugs containing each not more than one quart and more than one pint, or twenty-four bottles or jugs containing each not more than one pint, one dollar and twenty-five cents per case, and any excess beyond these quantities found in such bottles or jugs shall be subject to a duty of four cents per pint or fractional part thereof, but no separate or additional duty shall be assessed upon the bottles or jugs.

On paintings in oil or water colors, pastels, pen and ink drawings, and statuary, fifteen per centum ad valorem.

ARTICLE II

It is reciprocally agreed on the part of Italy, in consideration of the provisions of the foregoing Article, that so long as this Convention shall remain in force the duties to be assessed and collected on the following described merchandise, being the product of the soil or industry of the United States, imported into Italy shall not exceed the rates hereinafter specified, namely:

Upon cotton seed oil	lire 21.50 per quintal.
“ fish, pickled or in oil, excluding the tunny, preserved in boxes or barrels, sardines and anchovies	“ 15.00 “ “
“ other fish, preserved	“ 25.00 “ “
“ agricultural machinery	“ 9.00 “ “
“ detached parts of agricultural machinery:	
(1) of cast iron	“ 10.00 “ “
(2) of other iron or steel	“ 11.00 “ “
“ scientific instruments:	
(a) of copper, bronze, brass or steel:	
(1) with spy-glasses or microscopes, or graduated scales or circles, spy-glasses for use on land, monacles, binocles, lenses, detached and mounted	“ 30.00 “ “
(2) not provided with any optical instrument, nor with graduated scales or circles	“ 30.00 “ “
(b) of all kinds, in the construction of which iron is evidently predominant	“ 30.00 “ “
“ dynamo-electrical machines:	
(1) the weight of which exceeds 1000 kilograms	“ 16.00 “ “
(2) weighing 1000 kilograms or less	“ 25.00 “ “
“ detached parts of dynamo-electrical machines	“ 25.00 “ “
“ sewing machines:	
(1) with stands	“ 25.00 “ “
(2) without stands	“ 30.00 “ “
“ varnishes, not containing spirits nor mineral oils	“ 20.00 “ “

The following articles shall be admitted free of duty:

• Turpentine oil.

Natural fertilizers of all kinds.

Skins, crude, fresh or dried, not suitable for fur; and fur skins.

ARTICLE III

This Agreement is subject to the approval of the Italian Parliament. When such approval shall have been given, and official notification shall have been given to the United States Government of His Majesty's ratification, the President shall publish his proclamation, giving full effect to the provisions contained in Article I of this Agreement. From and after the date of such proclamation this Agreement shall be in full force and effect, and shall continue in force until the expiration of the year 1903, and if not denounced by either Party one year in advance of the expiration of said term shall continue in force until one year from the time when one of the High Contracting Parties shall have given notice to the other of its intention to arrest the operation thereof.

In witness whereof we the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement, in duplicate, in the English and Italian texts, and have affixed thereunto our respective seals.

Done at Washington this eighth day of February, A. D. one thousand and nine hundred.

JOHN A. KASSON [SEAL]
FAVA [SEAL]

MEMORANDUM NOTE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington

The Government of the United States of America takes note of the assurance which the Italian Government has been pleased to give to it that it will not raise the question of the interpretation of the most favored nation clause so long as the commercial Agreement (signed of this date) based upon Section 3 of the Tariff of the United States shall be in force.

The Government of His Majesty has desired to declare that by this purely amicable abstention it does not mean to renounce the interpretation which it believes to be most conformable to the Articles 6 and 24 of the Treaty of 1871.⁴

The Government of the United States while recognizing the friendly nature of this act of the Italian Government assures it that account thereof

⁴ TS 177, *ante*, pp. 84 and 90.

will be taken in favor of Italy, in the estimation of the reciprocal concessions which shall be offered on both sides when the two Governments shall engage in negotiations on the subject of a Treaty of commerce upon a more extended basis.

Signed at Washington this eighth day of February, A.D. 1900.

JOHN HAY